

1) The FCC should not allow any additional media consolidation or concentration of ownership. Our republic cannot exist if the news media is concentrated in the hands of the few because the citizens will not receive information they need in order to vote for their representatives. Instead, they will receive deceitful propaganda intended to promote the hidden agendas of the powerful. We have already seen massive lying and coverups re Bush's income tax cut in 2001, the causes of the September 11 attack, and the misuse of Sept 11 to seize military control of oil fields in the Caspian Sea and Iraq --for the benefit of the few at the expense of the taxpayers.

2) See, for example, my following article on why Bush's sale of 52 F16s to Israel in summer of 2001 helped provoke the Sept 11 attack: <http://mail.vex.net:99/pipermail/wclp/2001-October/001152.html> (original at <http://www.smirkingchimp.com/article.php?thold=-1&mode=nested&order=0&sid=3620> --this site is slow during day). See also <http://archive.salon.com/tech/letters/2001/11/26/oillet/>

My comment re the F16 sale in the above article was later confirmed by an article in the Pakistani newspaper DAWN, in which Bin Ladin specifically cited US sales of weapons to Israel as justification for the Sept 11 attack. See <http://www.dawn.com/2001/11/10/top1.htm>. The mainstream news media has never mentioned the F16 sale, even though the sale shows that President Bush lied to the American people when he said that (a) he had done nothing to provoke the attack and (b) he was secretly promoting a Palestinian state in the months prior to the attack (One doesn't encourage Sharon to negotiate peace with the Palestinians by selling Sharon 52 more F16s after Sharon has just used the F16s to bomb Palestinian apartment buildings.)

3) Bush's 2001 income tax cut shifted about \$1.8 Trillion of federal debt from the rich to the middle class via deceitful Enron-style accounting. Bush's budget shows that he is stealing \$Trillions from the government Trust Funds for Social Security, Medicare, etc. and replacing them with worthless IOUs. I say worthless because the only way future governments will be able to redeem Bush's IOUs (in order to provide Social Security/Medicare to the huge baby boom generation starting in 2011) will be to levy heavy taxes on middle class IRA/401 K distributions -- i.e, the money to redeem the Bush IOUs held as "assets" by our Social Security accounts will have to be taken from our IRAs/401Ks. The major TV networks, Washington Post, and New York Times have deliberately covered up this problem -- mainly because their rich owners benefited greatly from the Bush income tax cut. See <http://www.smirkingchimp.com/article.php?sid=1648>

4) The mainstream, corporate-owned TV networks, New York Times, and Washington Post have largely covered up/buried the way in which the war in Afghanistan has been manipulated for the benefit of the oil companies. The Caspian Sea has huge oil deposits. While CEO of Halliburton, Vice President Dick Cheney spent a lot of effort courting the dictators of the Caspian region and lobbying for US government protection of oil companies investments in that area. Now, large US military bases are being built in Central Asia. Those

bases are of little use against Al Qaeda -- they are meant to protect the billion-dollars investments that US oil companies have made and will make in the Caspian Sea region. The huge cost of military protection is being paid for by US taxpayers, not by the oil companies. See my past articles here:  
[http://archive.salon.com/tech/letters/2001/10/31/stuck\\_in\\_gulf/index1.html](http://archive.salon.com/tech/letters/2001/10/31/stuck_in_gulf/index1.html)  
(Second letter down),  
<http://www.counterpunch.org/dwilliams1.html>

5) The bottom line is that the TV networks, who use the public airwaves for free, and the major newspapers have concealed major facts re events of great importance from the US voters. Misleading US citizens and shaping their perceptions by "lying by omission" is the functional equivalent of deliberately telling false facts. Yet much censorship occurs in the news because the US news media, by and large, are whores for their advertisers and wealthy owners.

While I and others can post articles on the internet, we can reach maybe 2000 people while the TV networks use our public airwaves to lie to, mislead, and deceive a hundred million Americans. Most people, after working all day, do not have time to do days of research in order to find out what's really going on.

The FCC should not allow further concentration of media ownership. If anything, the FCC should join with the Justice Department and use the anti-trust laws to break up the giant news conglomerates.